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U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration

Information Concerning Employment and Training in the U.S. Merchant Marine

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. merchant marine is a fleet of privately owned, U.S.-registered merchant ships which provide waterborne transportation for cargoes moving in domestic and international commerce. Employment on these ships is the responsibility of the owners and is handled for the most part by maritime labor unions. Part-time or summer employment is not available. The level of seafaring employment is determined by the state of U.S. and world business conditions and improvements in ship technology.

This pamphlet provides information on shipboard employment. Other categories of employment in the maritime industry include shipbuilding and ship repair, longshoring (cargo handling), port terminal administration, dredging, towing and offshore oil and mineral operations.

UNITED STATES MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

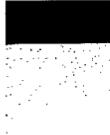
The Maritime Administration (MARAD) has Regional Offices in areas of concentrated shipping activity and can provide information on seafaring employment and training. MARAD is also responsible for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. Addresses and telephone numbers are:

Maritime Administration
North Atlantic Region Director
Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3737
New York, NY 10278
Telephone: 212-264-1300

Maritime Administration
South Atlantic Region Director
7737 Hampton Boulevard
Building 4D, Room 211
Norfolk, VA 23505
Telephone: 757-441-6393

Maritime Administration
Great Lakes Region Director
2860 South River Road
Suite 185
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2413
Telephone: 847-298-4535

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MISSOURI, St. Louis

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
1222 Spruce Street, Suite 104E
St. Louis, MO 63103-2835
314-539-3091 Ext. #2/2657

NEW YORK, New York

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Office (REC)
Battery Park Building
New York, NY 10004-8545
212-668-7492

OHIO, Toledo

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Room 501, Federal Building, 234 Summit Street
Toledo, OH 43604-1590
419-259-6395

OREGON, Portland

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
6767 N. Basin Avenue
Portland, OR 97217-3992
503-240-9346

SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
196 Tradd Street
Charleston, SC 29401-1899
803-724-7693 or 1 (800) 826-1511

TENNESSEE, Memphis

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
200 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 1302
Memphis, TN 38103-2300
901-544-3297

TEXAS, Houston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Office (REC)
8876 Gulf Freeway Suite 200,
Houston, TX 77017
713-947-0044/45

WASHINGTON, Seattle

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Office (REC)
1519 Alaskan Way S.,
Seattle, WA 98134-1192
206-217-6115

TYPICAL SALARIES

Crew members of American merchant ships enjoy excellent pay, and working and living conditions. Most jobs provide 13 days or more paid vacation for each 30 days worked. An example of typical pay on a modern merchant vessel is shown below:

<i>Officer Ratings</i>	<i>Monthly Base Wage</i>	<i>87% Overtime</i>	<i>Total</i>
Third Assistant Engineer	\$3246	\$2936	\$6311
Third Mate	\$3246	\$2936	\$6311
Radio Officer	\$4565	\$3972	\$8537
<i>Crew Ratings</i>			
Able Seaman	\$2237	\$1946	\$4183
QMED	\$3182	\$2768	\$5950
Engine Utility	\$2312	\$2012	\$4324
Chief Cook	\$2338	\$2034	\$4372
Food Handler	\$1553	\$1351	\$2904

THE MERCHANT MARINER'S DOCUMENT

Merchant Mariner's Documents (MMD) are issued by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) as required by applicable laws. With certain exceptions, no one may be employed on a U.S. flag merchant vessel of 100 gross tons or over without a MMD issued by one of the U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (REC's) previously listed above. All MMD's expire five years from the issue date and therefore must be renewed within that five year period. Renewals may be completed by mail.

Application for an original MMD: No evidence of service is required to obtain entry level rating. An applicant must present evidence of passing a drug test, a social security card, and proof of legal entry into the United States. Evidence of service, and in some cases evidence of approved training, must be

presented to establish service qualifications for individuals seeking qualified ratings.

Applicants must meet the following general requirements:

- a. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. An applicant between 16 and 18 years of age must present a notarized statement of parental or guardian's consent.
- b. The mariner must furnish three unmounted dull finished photographs of passport type (2 inches by 1.5 inches) taken within one year showing the full face at least one inch in height with the head uncovered. Some REC's are equipped with cameras for this purpose. Before purchasing photos, check with the REC at which you plan to apply.
- c. Applicants who indicate the use of drugs or conviction of drug related offenses, other criminal convictions or National Driver Register motor vehicle convictions may not be eligible for an MMD.
- d. Applicants must present acceptable evidence of citizenship at the time of filing the original application. Acceptable evidence of citizenship includes an original or certified copy of: birth certificate; certificate of naturalization (only original is acceptable); baptismal certificate; or, a valid U.S. passport.
- e. Aliens applying for a MMD must present acceptable documentary evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that the alien is lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. This evidence may be in the form of an alien registration receipt card issued by the INS bearing the certification that the alien was admitted to the United States as an immigrant, or a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the U.S. issued by a naturalization court.

For additional information concerning qualifications, requirements and interpretations of applicable regulations and policy, contact the nearest REC. There is a fee for the issuance of an MMD.



MARITIME EMPLOYMENT

Employment on U.S. flag cargo ships is handled for the most part by maritime labor unions. Contacts for information on entry level employment follow:

District No. 4-NMU/MEBA
1150 17th St., N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
202-466-7060

Seafarers International Union
5201 Auth Way
Camp Springs, MD 20746
301-899-0675

Additional organizations for other areas concerning maritime employment are listed as follows:

The Lake Carriers Association, 915, Rockefeller Building, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113, can furnish information regarding employment opportunities for marine personnel on the Great Lakes. Telephone: 216-861-0592

The Independent Tanker Association, which represents the employees of several major tanker companies, may be able to suggest shipboard employment with tanker operators who hire through company facilities. The Independent Tanker Association office is at P.O. Box 67, Palisades, New York, 10964. Telephone: 914-359-1883

The Military Sealift Command (MSC) Department of the Navy, operates numerous merchant-type ships manned by civilian crews employed under civil service regulations. Previous U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard experience is a major consideration in filling available jobs. Salaries of civilian crew members aboard MSC ships are based on wage rates and practices which are similar to the commercial shipping industry. The MSC employment office is as follows:

Director, Afloat Personnel Management Center
P.O. Box 120
Virginia Beach, VA 23458-0120
800-793-4628

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, operates floating equipment which is used to maintain and improve the Nation's waterways. These vessels are also manned by civilian crews

employed under civil service regulations. Employment opportunities are very limited. For information contact:

Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEHR-E
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000
202-761-0720

The Office of NOAA Corps Operations of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, operates high seas and inland oceanographic research and survey vessels. Most of the operating personnel are under civil service regulations. Employment centers are as follows:

DOC/NOAA Corps
Eastern Administrative Support Center
Personnel Division
200 World Trade Center
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-441-6805

DOC/NOAA/WASC Personnel Division Bldg. 1
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98115
206-526-6051

MARITIME TRAINING

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and the State maritime academies provide officer entry training which takes from 3 to 4 years to complete. The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship provides crew apprenticeship training which takes approximately 1 year to complete. Some of the programs offer a continuing education or skills upgrading component. Certain courses at labor operated schools are for members only. Student costs, enrollment levels and entry qualifications will vary. A list of schools follows:

Federal Merchant Marine Academy

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, NY 11024
516-773-5000



State Maritime Academies

State University of New York Maritime College
Fort Schuyler, NY 10465
718-409-7200

Maine Maritime Academy
Castine, ME 04420
207-326-4311

Texas State Maritime Program
Texas A&M University at Galveston
P.O. Box 1675
Galveston, TX 77553
409-740-4403

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
508-830-5000

California Maritime Academy
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-648-4210

Great Lakes Maritime Academy
Northwestern Michigan College
Traverse City, MI 49686-3061
616-922-1202


Maritime Labor Operated Schools

The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of
Seamanship
Piney Point, MD 20674
301-994-0010

Calhoon (MEBA) Engineering School
27050 St. Michaels Road
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-9600

Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate
Studies
5700 Hammonds Ferry Road
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
410-859-5700

NMU Education Fund
360 West 31st Street
3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001
212-244-4000



IBU Job Corps Seamanship Training Program
Tongue Point Job Corps Center
Astoria, OR 97103
503-325-8475

American Maritime Officers Safety and
Education Plan-School of Marine Engineering
and Navigation
2 West Dixie Highway
Dania, FL 33004
800-942-3220

American Maritime Officers Safety and
Education Plan-School of Marine Engineering
and Navigation
1 Maritime Plaza
Toledo, OH 43604
800-221-9395

Radio Electronics Officers Union
Maritime Electronic Training School
1415 Moylan Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32407
904-233-6100

American Radio Association-Technology
Institute for Maritime Electronics (ARA- TIME)
17 Battery Place, Room 1443
New York, NY 10004
212-809-0600

Other Non- Profit Schools

Seamen's Church Institute
Center for Maritime Education
241 Water Street
New York, NY 10038
212-233-2242

Southern Maine Technical College
2 Fort Road
South Portland, ME 04106
207-767-9500

Kingsborough Community College
Office of Marine Education
201 Oriental Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11235
718-368-5525



Specialized Safety Courses

The U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD jointly approve courses in marine fire fighting, collision avoidance navigation, radar, vessel stability and emergency medical. For information contact the following:

U.S. Coast Guard
National Maritime Center
4200 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 510
Arlington, VA 22203-1804
703-235-1866

or

Maritime Administration
MAR-250
Room 7302
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590
202-366-5755

MARAD Marine Fire Fighting

The Maritime Administration offers practical marine fire fighting that is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard. For information, contact the following:

Maritime Administration
North Atlantic Region Fire Training Registrar
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3737
New York, NY 10278
212-264-1380

or

Maritime Administration
MARAD/MSC Fire School
1029 Highway 33 East
Freehold, NJ 07728
732-938-5190

Maritime Administration
Great Lakes Region Fire Training Center
2600 Eber Road
Swanton, OH 43558
419-259-6362

Maritime Administration
Western Region Fire Training Registrar
201 Mission Street, Suite 2200
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-744-3125

The entry below is part of the "Maritime Labor
Operated Schools" -- see previous page 9:

Andrew Furuseth School of Seamanship
450 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94405
415-546-1537